

Argument Paragraph Revision

CONTENT

Claim

- Underline your claim. Make sure it's debatable (not a fact; a statement that that can be argued about)
 - Does your claim reflect what you're actually arguing for in your paragraph?

Evidence

- Ask yourself: is this the best evidence to use to prove your argument?
- Is there a variety of evidence—reasons, facts, personal experience, statistics, and expert research?
- Did you cite all your evidence from secondary sources correctly?

ORGANIZATION

Flow of Argument

- Ask yourself—is my claim at the beginning of the paragraph?
- Ask yourself—is this the best order for my evidence?
- Experiment with re-organizing your evidence. What does this do to the flow and logic of your argument? Does it make more sense now?

Here's the Evidence

<p style="text-align: center;">DEBATABLE CLAIM</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Year-round school improves students' academic achievement.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">EVIDENCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">personal experience, reasons, confirmed facts, statistics, expert research</p>
<p>#1 Personal experience – any actual experience with the topic that you, your family and friends have had.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: I forgot fewer of my math skills over the summer because my summer break was so short thanks to year-round school.</p>
<p>#2 Reasons – logical reasons that support the opinions made in the claim.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Because students have multiple breaks throughout the year, they experience less academic burnout. They have frequent opportunities to refresh and restart their learning experience.</p>
<p>#3 Confirmed facts – facts that have been found in reliable/credible sources.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: A review of 39 studies confirmed summertime learning loss: test scores drop over summer vacation (Cooper, et al., 1996)> <i>This is the name of the expert who did the review and the year it was done.</i></p>
<p>#4 Statistics – numbers and percentages that are relevant to the topic and come from reliable/credible sources.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: Year-round schools have lower drop-out rates (2%) than traditional schools (5%) (StatisticBrain.com).</p>
<p>#5 Research by experts – research that is done by professors, researchers, or doctors who have a deep knowledge of the topic; always found in credible/reliable sources.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: One study of six elementary schools, three on traditional calendars and three on year-round schedules, found positive effects of year-round education. The sample of students in the year-round schools posted overall test-scores that were higher than students at the schools with traditional calendars (<i>Education Week</i>).</p>

Challenge Question: What do you notice about the last three types of evidence?

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE SENTENCE STARTERS¹³

1. On page ____, it said...
2. The author wrote...
3. The graphic showed...
4. An example is...
5. In the text it said...
6. I know because...
7. For instance, ...
8. From the reading, I know that...
9. Based on what I read, ...

